

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

BALLOT PROPOSITION 9

*THE ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST A BALLOT PROPOSITION
ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS*

Ballot Language:

Shall Utah County adopt the alternate form of government known as the Executive – Council (also known as the Mayor – Council) as recommended in the proposed optional plan?

() YES

() NO

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UTAH COUNTY OPTIONAL PLAN

TITLE ONE - ADOPTION OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE-COUNCIL FORM OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Utah County, by and through the Board of Commissioners of Utah County, Utah, hereby creates and establishes, under the Constitution of Utah Article XI, Section 4 “Optional Forms of County Government” and the Utah Code Title 17, Chapter 52a “Changing Forms of County Government”, an optional plan for Utah County government. Utah County shall be governed under the county executive-council form of government. Within the executive-council form of government, Utah County shall be governed by an elected county executive (the Utah County Mayor), an elected county council (consisting of five members and constituted as provided for herein), and other officers and employees authorized by law.

TITLE TWO – COUNTY MAYOR

2.a. The Utah County Mayor is the county executive and is the chief executive officer of Utah County government. The Mayor has the powers, duties, and functions of a county executive under Utah Code Title 17, Chapter 53, Part 3, County Executive and is vested with all executive powers, duties, and functions not otherwise provided for in state statute, the Utah County Code, or this plan. References in any state statute or state rule to the “governing body” or the “board of county commissioners” of the county means the Utah County Mayor with respect to executive functions, duties, and powers.

2.b. The County Mayor shall be elected at-large through the partisan election process as provided for in state statute. The Utah County Mayor shall satisfy all requirements of an elected county official under state statute and reside in Utah County throughout each term of office. The term of office for the Utah County Mayor is four years, beginning at noon on the first Monday of January following the election. Any mid-term vacancy in the County Mayor shall be filled as prescribed by state statute.

2.c. The Utah County Mayor’s compensation for full-time service shall be a \$120,000 annual salary plus the standard employment benefits offered to other Utah county employees and officials. Adjustments to the Mayor’s compensation shall be in accordance with state statute and Utah County Code.

2.d. The Utah County Mayor is vested with the authority to exercise the power of veto and line-item-budget-veto. To exercise the veto, the Mayor shall direct a writing indicating such to the Utah County Council Chair within 15 calendar days of any legislative enactment.

2.e. The Utah County Mayor shall prepare a proposed budget in accordance with state statute and present the proposed budget to the Utah County Council.

2.f. The Utah County Mayor shall appoint, suspend and remove members of County boards and commissions and members of boards and commissions which the County is entitled to appoint members and county department directors, other than those elected pursuant to state statute, with advice and consent from the Utah County Council. The Mayor may establish standards, qualifications, criteria and procedures to govern these appointments, in accordance with state statute and county code and ordinances.

TITLE THREE – COUNTY COUNCIL

3.a. The Utah County Council is the legislative body of Utah County government. The Council has the powers, duties, and functions of a county legislative body under Utah Code Title 17, Chapter 53, Part 2 County Legislative Body and is vested with all legislative powers, duties, and functions not otherwise provided for in state statute, the Utah County Code, or this plan. References in any state statute or state rule to the “governing body” or the “board of county commissioners” of the county means the Utah County Council with respect to legislative functions, duties, and powers.

3.b. The Utah County Council is composed of 5 part-time members elected by geographical districts. A quorum of the Council is achieved by the presence of 3 members.

3.c. Each Council member shall be elected through the partisan election process as provided for in state statute. Each Council member shall satisfy all requirements of an elected county official under state statute. The term of office for each Council member is four years, except for those two-year initial terms for Districts 1, 3, and 5, as described herein. Any mid-term vacancy in the Council shall be filled as prescribed by state statute.

3.d. The members of the Utah County Council shall be elected by voters of the respective geographical districts and shall reside within the district wherein they were elected throughout each term of office.

3.d.i. Utah County shall be divided into five geographical districts designated Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The initial term of office for Districts 1, 3 and 5 shall be two years. The initial term of office for Districts 2 and 4 shall be four years. After the initial terms of office, the regular term of office of each district shall be four years; each term shall begin at noon on the first Monday in January following the respective election.

3.d.ii. The five geographical districts shall have substantially equal populations and shall be reapportioned by the Utah County Council within one year after each decennial census report. Upon reapportionment, the Districts should, to the extent practical, remain consistent with their original geographic configurations and representation.

3.d.iii. Maps of the initial Utah County Council districts are attached to this Optional Plan and incorporated herein.

3.d.iv. The initial geographical districts as attached hereto and adopted by the Utah County Board of Commissioners as part of this optional plan shall be reapportioned by a majority of the Utah County Board of Commissioners within one year after the 2020 census report.

3.e. Each member of the Utah County Council is entitled to receive \$20,000 in annual stipend, and shall not be entitled to any of the standard employment benefits offered to other Utah county employees and officials. Adjustments to the Council's compensation shall be in accordance with state statute and Utah County Code.

3.f. The Utah County Council may override the Mayor's veto with the vote of 75% of a quorum of the Council within 21 calendar days of the date of receipt of the written notice of the veto by the Utah County Mayor.

3.g. The Utah County Council shall adopt a final budget in accordance with state statute.

3.h. Advise and consent to Mayoral appointments where such advice and consent is authorized by this Optional Plan or by state statute.

TITLE FOUR – TRANSITION TO THE OPTIONAL PLAN

4.a. If, during the November 3, 2020 election, a majority of voters in Utah County vote in favor of adopting the Option Plan:

4.a.i. The Officers of Utah County Mayor and Utah County Council members shall be elected during the 2022 general election in accordance with this Optional Plan and state statute, and

4.a.ii. This Optional Plan will become effective at noon on Monday the 2nd of January 2023, which is the first Monday in January following the election of officers under this optional form of government, and, as of said date and time, the offices of Utah County Commissioner shall terminate. For the avoidance of doubt, if this Optional Plan is approved by the voters, then the individual elected to Seat C of the County Commission at the November 3, 2020 election will only serve a two-year term.

4.b. To ensure the continuity of Utah County government through the transition to the Optional Plan, all Utah County ordinances and regulations, not inconsistent with the terms of this Optional Plan, and pending legislative, administrative, or judicial proceedings shall continue in force and effect until modified in accordance with state statute.

4.c. There are no interim or temporary appointments made herein. Should the Utah County Board of Commissioners, prior to the effective date of this Optional Plan, or the Utah County Council, or where applicable the Utah County Mayor, after the effective date of this Optional

Plan, desire to make any interim or temporary appointments to facilitate the operation and effectiveness of this Optional Plan, such appointments may be made by action of the majority of the respective body and in accordance with state statute and Utah County Code.

4.d. There are no budget appropriations or adjustments made herein. Should the Utah County Board of Commissioners, prior to the effective date of the this Optional Plan, or the Utah County Council, after the effective date of this Optional Plan, desire to prepare, approve, or adjust necessary budget appropriations to facilitate the operation and effectiveness of this Optional Plan, such budgetary adjustments or appropriations may be made by action of the majority of the respective body and in accordance with state statute and the Utah County Code.

UTAH COUNTY

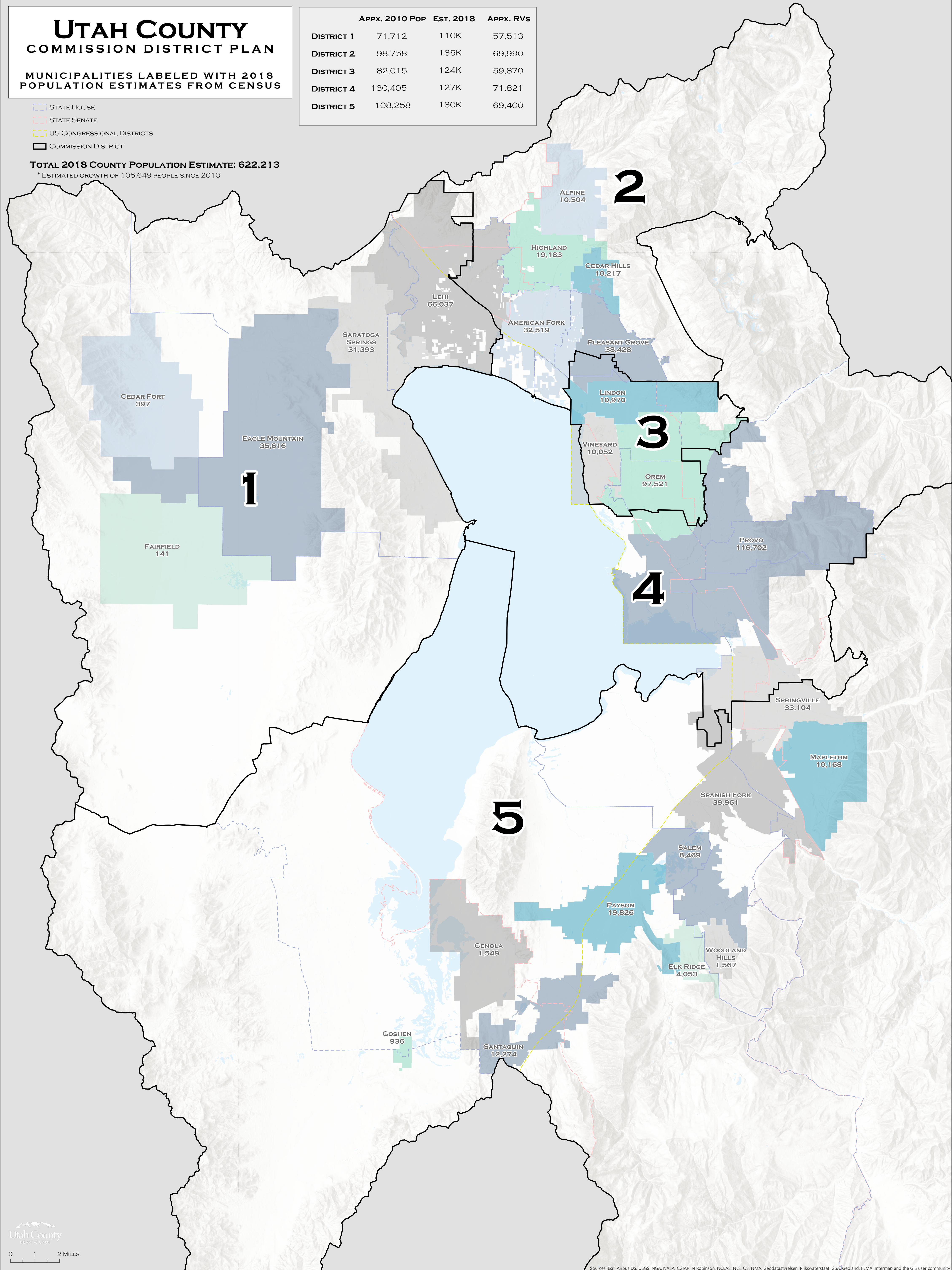
COMMISSION DISTRICT PLAN

MUNICIPALITIES LABELED WITH 2018
POPULATION ESTIMATES FROM CENSUS

- State House
- State Senate
- US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
- COMMISSION DISTRICT

TOTAL 2018 COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATE: 622,213
* ESTIMATED GROWTH OF 105,649 PEOPLE SINCE 2010

	APPX. 2010 POP	EST. 2018	APPX. RVs
DISTRICT 1	71,712	110K	57,513
DISTRICT 2	98,758	135K	69,990
DISTRICT 3	82,015	124K	59,870
DISTRICT 4	130,405	127K	71,821
DISTRICT 5	108,258	130K	69,400



WRITTEN ARGUMENT - FOR BALLOT PROPOSITION 9

Governor Herbert recently called Utah County the “epicenter of dysfunction.” That dysfunction has been driven in part by Utah County’s outmoded, unresponsive, and unrepresentative form of government. Prop 9 provides a better form of government for Utah County – one that provides better representation and greater accountability. This form of government includes five part-time council members representing geographical areas and one full-time mayor. Utah County is the second largest county in the state and studies indicate we will have 1.6 million residents by 2065. The time to change is now.

Our current form of government consists of three full-time commissioners who hold both executive and legislative powers, and who are elected at-large. While this may function for rural areas, Utah County would be better served by a government that includes a separation of powers, checks and balances, and regional representation. Utah County consists of both rural and urban areas, and the challenges faced in different parts of the county are not the same. The issues faced by Lehi, with the growth of the technology sector, are different than those of Genola, which has a population of just over 1,300. Having a form of government with regional representation means the perspectives of citizens throughout the county will be better considered.

Our government must be accountable to citizens. Having three CEOs doesn’t work for business and it doesn’t work for government. Separating the legislative and executive branches means that the county council has legislative authority to set policy and control the budget while the executive is tasked with implementing that policy and advocating for the county. Responsibility is divided between the two branches and there is a built-in system of checks and balances similar to our national, state, and city governments. Knowing who is responsible for what improves accountability.

This is not an expansion of government. It does not create new powers, new departments, or new levels of bureaucracy. Nor does it require a tax increase as the legislative branch would consist of part-time council members. The funding currently allocated to the three full-time county commissioners and staff would be distributed among the staffing needs for a full-time executive and part-time council.

Seven counties in Utah have moved to a form of government that separates executive and legislative functions, and no two are the same or offer the same services. Who we elect matters. The advantage of a part-time legislature means we widen the pool of candidates as those who have other employment can serve in county government, similar to our state legislature and city councils. A part-time council allows for more citizen servants and fewer full-time politicians.

Our government must meet the needs of a rapidly growing area. Vote YES on Prop 9 to implement a better form of county government with a separation of powers, checks and balances, and regional representation. Visit betterutahcounty.com for more information.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jenney Rees, 9466 N 3830 W., Cedar Hills UT 84062, 385-202-3710
Representative Mike McKell, Spanish Fork
Commissioner Tanner Ainge, Alpine
Sheriff Mike Smith, Lindon
Clint Betts, Lehi

WRITTEN ARGUMENT - AGAINST
BALLOT PROPOSITION 9

Dear Utah County Voters,

Proposition 9 is not about improving government—it's about expanding government on the backs of Utah County taxpayers. With the economy down and continued economic uncertainty under COVID-19, now is a terrible time to consider growing county government.

Make no mistake: Voting in favor of Proposition 9 will lead to an expansion of government and an increase in your taxes over time. Twenty years ago, Salt Lake County switched to the mayor-council form of government, and the result has been more bureaucracy, bloated salaries for county officials, "celebrity mayors" seeking higher office, and continual tax increases.

Even the formation of small towns or realignment of school districts requires an independent financial analysis, typically by a CPA firm. No such analysis was completed for this massive change in government, and proponents are relying on the bogus math of the same two county commissioners who recently proposed a doubling of Utah County's property tax. No independent salary study, benefits study, staffing plan study, office space analysis, or total cost analysis has been conducted on the financial impact of Proposition 9.

We know one thing for sure by looking at Salt Lake County: expanding the county government will result in more government and more taxes. WE BELIEVE UTAH COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE TAXED ENOUGH. In recent years we have seen property tax increases, gas tax increases, and several sales tax increases from the state and many local taxing entities. And these tax increases aren't cheap—they add up to thousands of dollars per household. Proposition 9 will further increase your tax burden.

Approving Proposition 9 will result in less representation, not more. Currently, all three Utah County commissioners are elected at-large, which means each voter is represented by 100% of the Commission, and each voter votes for all three commissioners. Under Proposition 9, each voter would only vote on one of the five councilmembers, which means each voter would be represented by just 20% of the Council.

Utah County already has tremendous separation of powers. In addition to the three commissioners, we have seven other independently elected county government officials. Increasing the number of elected officials is an unnecessary expansion of government.

Another big problem with Proposition 9 is that it consolidates executive power in one person: a county mayor. Because Utah has no recall law, it is virtually impossible to mitigate a bad county mayor. Contrast that with the Commission form of government where the negative impact of one bad executive is minimized by the other two commissioners.

One of the advantages of the current system is having three full-time commissioners, which empowers voters by giving them direct electoral oversight over those making the day-to-day decisions in county government. But under Proposition 9, the bureaucracy will be empowered because the new legislative body would only serve part-time. Having three full-time commissioners provides much greater oversight than one full-time mayor and a part-time council.

PLEASE JOIN US IN VOTING “NO” ON PROPOSITION 9. To learn more, visit www.NoToPropNine.com.

Sincerely,

Utah County Commissioner Bill Lee, 835 N 500 E., Pleasant Grove UT 84062,
StopProp9@gmail.com, (801) 722-4646
Heather Williamson, Saratoga Springs
Jerry Grover, former Utah County Commissioner, Provo
Steve White, former Utah County Commissioner, Provo
Tom Sakievich, Spanish Fork

WRITTEN REBUTTAL ARGUMENT - FOR
BALLOT PROPOSITION 9

Prop 9 means better representation. Having someone responsible for a specific region means the voices of all citizens are considered, even those in smaller cities and rural areas. Our county consists of rural, suburban, and urban communities and the needs of all should be considered, not just the areas where politicians can pick up the most votes.

Prop 9 provides greater accountability. With three commissioners, it only takes two people to implement policy, adopt a budget, or approve a tax increase for the entire county. With a new form of government, the annual budget and all legislation will require a majority vote of the county council and the approval of the executive before it is implemented. We will see greater collaboration across the county and increased accountability to citizens.

Prop 9 creates better checks and balances. Having a full-time executive does not consolidate power in one person. Rather, it creates checks and balances by taking the existing powers granted to commissioners and splitting them between two co-equal branches of government.

Prop 9 will not increase your taxes, as the budget allocation for the current three full-time commissioners and staff will be redistributed among a full-time executive and part-time county council with associated staff. As citizens of Utah County, it will be up to us to elect officials who will be responsible stewards of our tax dollars as they consider the long-term needs of our growing county.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jenney Rees, 9466 N 3830 W., Cedar Hills UT 84062, 385-202-3710
Representative Mike McKell, Spanish Fork
Commissioner Tanner Ainge, Alpine
Sheriff Mike Smith, Lindon
Clint Betts, Lehi

WRITTEN REBUTTAL ARGUMENT - AGAINST
BALLOT PROPOSITION 9

Prop 9 is a flawed proposal that attempts to fix problems that don't exist, and it creates new problems such as less representation, more bureaucracy, higher taxes, and economic uncertainty.

Under our current system, you have a direct influence on all three commissioners because you vote for all three commission seats. When a group of citizens from one area of the county has an issue, the entire county commission listens. Under Prop 9, regionalism will divide us because each voter votes on only one of five councilmembers.

Prop 9 will lead to more government and more taxes. Under our current system, just three staffers work in the commission office. Contrast that with Salt Lake County, which has 30 full-time staffers working for the county council and mayor's office—and that doesn't include the rest of the ever-expanding Salt Lake County bureaucracy.

Utah County's unemployment remains one of the lowest not just in the state, but in the nation. We have strong community ties and cooperation. Contrast that with Salt Lake County's heavy-handed approach to problems, lack of united purpose, and higher unemployment and cost of living.

There's a reason why 22 of Utah's 29 counties have the Commission form of government, and that's because it's the form that best protects your interests. Let's reject political dysfunction and keep Utah County strong and vibrant. Vote "No" on Prop 9 so that Utah County will remain a great place for people to live, play, and work.

Visit www.NoToPropNine.com to learn more.

Sincerely,

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